



SUSAN COMBS, COMMISSIONER

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December 9, 2003

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Chief
Section of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street NW, Room 500
Washington, D.C. 20423

Dear Ms. Rutson:

I was recently made aware of Vulcan Materials Inc.'s intention to construct a limestone quarry and rail line in Medina County, Texas. In response to your preliminary study, there are several issues of concern that I would like to bring to your attention.

First, I am worried about the implications of the proposed rail line being built through floodplain areas. I hope your agency has fully contemplated the result that railway culverts and trestles would have on adjacent lands with respect to the possible flooding of homes and agricultural land.

Secondly, I am concerned that the proposed route for the rail line dissects the Gerdes T4 Ranch, honored in 1986 as a Texas Family Land Heritage property. The Family Land Heritage Program honors farms and ranches that have been in continuous agricultural operation by the same family for 100 years or more. The program is designed to recognize and chronicle the unique history of Texas agriculture and the men and women who settled this great state and continue the tradition today.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

Susan Combs
Commissioner

SC/klk

cc: Rep. Timoteo "Timo" Garza
Sen. Frank Madla

*Making Texas the nation's
leader in agriculture while
providing efficient and
extraordinary service.*



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